

Library

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

as to the

Sanitary Conditions of the Hartismere Rural

District for the year 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council of the Hartismere Rural District.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1952.

The year under review has been fairly healthy, but there was an outbreak of whooping cough in the months of June and July and a rather larger outbreak of measles in the last quarter of the year. The population remains steady and birth and death rates are favourable as compared with that of England and Wales.

In the early part of the year an investigation was instituted with the East Suffolk County Council regarding the presence of nitrate in shallow wells. High nitrate content in water may give rise to illness when babies are artificially fed. A system has been evolved whereby such wells are examined in the event of an expected confinement and although much of the area of Hartismere is supplied by main water, and therefore such wells are uncommon, the investigation is being carried out.

During the year the East Suffolk County Council set up a separate administration to deal with mental health in closer co-operation with its other health services and the Joint Board with West Suffolk, which previously dealt with this aspect, was dissolved.

During the year, as previously, I have received valuable support and assistance from members of my department and wish to record once more my appreciation and thanks.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant

MARJORY A. DAWSON,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

9th December, 1953.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area.	96,486 acres.
Population.	17,180.
No. of inhabited houses.	5,998.
Rateable Value.	£44,352. 0. 0.
Product of penny rate.	£186. 18. 9.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
--	---------------	-----------------	---------------

Live Births.

Legitimate births.	115	103	218
Illegitimate births.	7	8	15
Total births.	<u>122</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>233</u>

Birth Rate.

Per 1,000 population.	13.56
Per 1,000 population (England and Wales).	15.3
Comparability factor.	1.22

Still Births.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
--	---------------	-----------------	---------------

Legitimate.	-	4	4
Illegitimate.	-	1	1
Totals.	<u>-</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

Still Birth Rate.

Per 1,000 population.	0.29
Per 1,000 population (England and Wales).	0.35

Infant Mortality (under one year)

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	3	2	5
Illegitimate.	1	-	1
Totals.	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	2	1	3
Illegitimate.	1	-	1
Totals.	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>

Infant Mortality Rate.

Per 1,000 live births.	25.70
Per 1,000 live births (England and Wales).	27.6

Death Rate (Registrar General's Figures).

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
All causes.	124	103	227
Death rate per 1,000 population.	13.2		
Death rate per " " (England & Wales)	11.3		
Comparability factor.	0.8		

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Respiratory Tuberculosis.	5	1	6
Malignant Neoplasm - stomach.	7	2	9
lung and bronchus.	2	-	2
breast.	-	5	5
uterus.	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	13	9	22
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	1	3	4
Diabetes.	2	1	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	17	13	30
Coronary disease, angina.	16	14	30
Hypertension, with heart disease.	4	5	9
Other heart disease.	24	21	45
Other circulatory disease.	6	7	13
Pneumonia.	6	2	8
Bronchitis.	2	3	5
Other diseases of respiratory system.	2	-	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	9	14	23
Motor vehicle accidents.	1	1	2
All other accidents.	4	0	4
Suicide.	1	-	1
	<u>124</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>227</u>

Comparable Table for Last Three Years.

	1950	1951	1952	Eng. & Wales '52.	London '52.
Inhabited Houses.	5,344	~~5,950~~ 5,747	~~5,998~~ 5,815	---	---
Population (Reg. Gen. Figs.)	17,110	17,190	17,180	---	---
Live Births.	252	284	233	---	---
Birth Rate per 1,000 population.	14.7	16.5	13.56	15.3	17.6
Death of Infants under 1 year.	4	8	6	---	---
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births.	29.8	28.2	25.70	27.6	23.8
Death rate per 1,000 population.	11.7	14.4	13.2	11.3	12.6

Notifiable Diseases (Registrar General's Figures).

Measles.	172
Whooping Cough.	40
Dysentery.	1
Enteritis.	1
Pneumonia.	14
Puerperal Pyrexia.	4
Scarlet Fever.	4
Jaundice.	1
Poliomyelitis (paralytic).	2
Glandular Fever.	1
Erysipelas.	1

The majority of measles cases occurred during the last quarter of the year whooping cough cases mostly occurred during the months of June and July.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

No. of pre-school children immunised 1952 -	228
No. of school children immunised 1952 -	32
Booster treatments 1952 -	275

No cases of diphtheria notified during year.

Tuberculosis.

79 cases were on the register at the beginning of the year. During the year the following notifications were received:-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary.	4	5	9
Non-pulmonary.	2	1	3
	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>

4 cases added otherwise than by primary notification, 13 cases were removed from the register during the year, these are accounted for by 5 deaths (4 male and 1 female) 4 recoveries and 4 removals to other districts.

No. of cases on register at end of year - 84.

Biological Examination of Milk, 1952.

(a) Number of samples examined.	51
(b) Number found to contain tubercle bacilli.	0
(c) Number found to contain brucella organisms.	5

Well Water Cyanosis.

During the year 33 samples were examined for nitrate estimation under the above scheme, of these 7 were found to be dangerous and the mothers were notified accordingly regarding a suitable alternative supply.

Public Health Department,
Hartismere R.D.C.,
Lambeth Street,
Eye.

9th December, 1953.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

as to the

Sanitary Conditions of the Hartismere Rural
District for the year 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council of the Hartismere Rural
District.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In opening this Report I have, of course, to record that on 9th February the Council's Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H.A. Reeve, was taken seriously ill and had to undergo a dangerous operation. Altogether he was absent over 8 months before his recovery enabled him to return finally to duty in December.

It will be appreciated therefore that the department was operating under considerable difficulties and many activities of a routine nature had of necessity to be curtailed.

HOUSING.

Some progress was made throughout the year in the repair and improvement to existing houses, though the state of many rented houses continued to cause a great deal of concern. No change in circumstances affected the reluctance of many owners to carry out improvements or even in many cases to execute necessary repairs owing to high costs of such work and the fact of rents being pegged by legislation. Very few enquiries were made regarding Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, and no schemes were considered by the Council.

However, plans for the alterations and improvement to 25 dwellings were approved under the Building Byelaws whilst such works were actually carried out to 31 dwellings including some for which approval was given previously. 42 private drainage systems were installed and 9 properties were connected to existing sewers.

New Houses.

53 houses were erected by the Council bringing the total number of houses owned by them to 681. 18 houses were erected by private enterprise.

Byelaws.

169 inspections were made in connection with works on private property.

Demolition Orders.

Demolition orders were made in respect of 7 houses.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

13 new licences were granted allowing the stationing and use of caravans as dwellings the total of such being 36 at the end of the year. This showed an increase over the previous year. The dwellings were mostly caravans of the modern trailer type well fitted out and providing a surprising standard of comfort and amenity. In one case only was consideration given to an unsatisfactory moveable dwelling and the difficulty of operating the provisions of Section 269 The Public Health Act was experienced. However, shortly after a system of daily inspections was started with a view to taking legal action, the site was vacated.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

No formal action was necessary during the year regarding premises used for the preparation of food. Only small quantities of tinned foods were surrendered and certified as unfit for human consumption.

RODENT DESTRUCTION.

A notable advance was made during the year with a general introduction in the use of the blood anti-coagulant Warfarin as a rodenticide. With this material came confidence that whole areas could be maintained for the first time in history, free of rats.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The number of bins emptied during the year has increased slightly due to new houses and the agreement of some occupiers of properties beyond the 100 feet limit to bring bins to the roadside.

WATER.

Public Water Mains.

Stage IV Area A was started during the year and mains were laid from Stoke Hall to Thorndon serving a portion of Braiseworth village en route.

Later in the year the remainder of this stage was commenced and by the end of the year water was available in the Stoke Ash Chapel area and to a portion of Thornham Magna and Thornham Parva.

The Council has not supplied stand pipes and there has been considerable progress in the provision of connections "into the houses".

Sampling.

11 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, 7 of these were from the Council's network of mains and were all satisfactory. The remainder were from private wells and were all unsatisfactory.

SEWERAGE.

The construction of a public sewer at Mendlesham, one of the larger villages in this district, was completed in July 1952, work having been started 14 months previously.

This brought modern sewerage facilities to 133 properties and Mendlesham thus became the third village in the district to have a comprehensive village scheme, and the first to be so provided since the war. 82 properties, however, were connected to an old existing sewer which received waste water only. This sewage received inadequate treatment and extensive pollution of ditches resulted.

It was therefore decided to discontinue the use of this sewer for all but surface water. However, it was not possible merely to connect existing drains to the new sewer because of their being used extensively for surface water. A scheme, estimated to cost £1,600 was prepared to provide new drains connected to the sewer to the 82 properties concerned to the equivalent of those existing.

This work started in September, 1952, soon after the completion of the main scheme and approximately 50 properties were thus connected by the end of the year. Many of these had sink gullies only installed but a number of house owners with this incentive, provided additional amenities such as W.C's. It is interesting to note that this procedure appears to have created a precedent which is likely to be continued in almost all future village sewerage schemes.

Further incentive to owners was provided when the Council decided to advance loans for the purpose of making connections to the sewers, repayment to be made by installments over a period of up to 20 years. This brought policy in this respect in line with that agreed for connections to the Council's water mains.

For some time the condition of an old 15" sewer at the rear of properties in Church Street at Stradbroke had been causing concern. It was therefore decided to replace this by a new 6" sewer. Work was started in April and was completed in June 1952. 10 properties were affected and owners of 4 of these took the opportunity of providing additional amenities.

During the year sewage works installed to serve Council house sites at Stoke Ash, Wingfield, Worlingworth and Mendham provided sewerage facilities for 64 properties.

In addition to these more spectacular activities a further number of schemes were progressing through the planning and preparation stages. In the cases of schemes in course of preparation by the Council's Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Herbert Bateman and Partners, continued co-operation was evident. With regard to the two schemes concerned with Botesdale and Rickingham, Fressingfield and Weybread, detailed Sanitary Surveys of the villages were made to provide statistics for statutory connections and a possible Ministry enquiry.

Concerning the parish of Palgrave, as instructed by the Council, a scheme was prepared by members of the department to serve almost the whole of the village area, the proposal being to arrange with Diss U.D.C. to discharge sewage to their works which are situated within Hartismere Rural District and in a suitable position for the purpose.

In the same way a scheme was prepared for an extension of Stradbroke sewer to serve New Street and authority was given to prepare a similar scheme for Wilby Road.

Considerable work was also carried out on the preparation of a village scheme at Thorndon, but this scheme was unfortunately abandoned.

Whilst discussing sewerage progress it is opportune to mention that applications were made during the year for the Council to provide a night soil collection service. Wisely, it is felt, it was decided not to institute such a scheme, it being greatly preferable to concentrate on the provision of sewerage schemes.

SEWERAGE MAINTENANCE.

In June 1952, a comprehensive report was submitted to the Council on a suggested re-organisation of the system of sewerage maintenance. At that time one labourer using a bicycle was employed, and it was obvious that it was impossible to give adequate attention to the 26 sewage works in the district, even with assistance from the Housing Maintenance Unit, and new works were continually coming into use.

It was proposed that a Land Rover and mobile sludge pump be purchased to be operated by a gang of two men. In view of the considerable time taken in cutting, by hand, the large areas of grass on the various works it was also proposed to purchase an Autosythe.

It was estimated that the net capital outlay involved would be £568. 15s. 0d. and that annual running costs would be £1104. 2s. 3d.

This report was accepted by the Council and in October the scheme came into operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant

H. SPINDLER

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector.

9th December, 1953.